

REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 10-18 are pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented in the "*Literal English Translation of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/CH2003/000695 With Article 19 Amendments*," entered during the P.C.T. international phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/CH2003/000695, and as entered by the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claim 10 is the single independent claim now pending in the application.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/CH2003/000695, filed October 24, 2003, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding Switzerland patent application, filed October 24, 2002.

By the present amendments, original Claims 1-9, as amended under Article 19 during the P.C.T. international phase, been cancelled and substituted by new Claims 10-18, which are intended to conform more closely to U.S. claim practice.

The Specification has been amended to add standard U.S. sectional headings and to include: (1) a description of the prior art as discussed in Applicant's Article 19 Declaration;

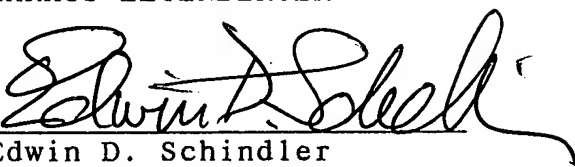
and (2) an amendment to the "Summary of the Invention" so that it now conforms with new independent Claim 10.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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